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ABSTRACT

The Supplemental Language Study Group (SLSG) program at Colorado State University (Fort Collins, Colorado) is described. The program was developed following a student's expression of interest in learning "exotic" languages unavailable in the standard foreign language curriculum at the university. This student-run club offers several weekly noncredit classes with a minimal fee. They are taught by foreign students at the university. Classes include Swahili, Japanese, Urdu, Arabic, Korean, Norwegian, Hebrew, Portuguese, and Navajo. SLSG has gained official recognition from the student government. Its expansion has had an impact on the official foreign language program offered at the university. Its success has resulted in the development of four new language classes in the university language curriculum (Arabic, Hebrew, Korean, and Japanese). Students can receive credits for them either through the university or the university's Division of Continuing Education. SLSG gives students and community members a chance to learn about other cultures through personal interaction, and foreign students gain a new appreciation of their American colleagues as interested, concerned individuals. It now reaches about 200 students per year. It is replicable in a university or college where foreign students are willing to be instructors (for a small fee), where the Office of International Programs is wiling to assist, and where proper approval can be obtained. Flyers on learning to speak the various languages are appended. (Author/SM)

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Supplemental Language Study Program

Colorado State University

Office of International Education

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AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory Project

The AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory is a two-year project seeking to establish and test a model system for collecting and disseminating information on model programs at AASCU-member institutions--375 of the public four-year colleges and universities in the United States.

The four objectives of the project are:

- To increase the information on model programs available to all institutions through the ERIC system
- To encourage the use of the ERIC system by AASCU institutions
- To improve AASCU's ability to know about, and share information on, activities at member institutions, and
- To test a model for collaboration with ERIC that other national organizations might adopt.

The AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory Project is funded with a grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education to the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, in collaboration with the ERIC Clearinghouse on Higher Education at The George Washington University.

ABSTRACT

In 1985 an "experiment" in language programming at Colorado State University launched what is today the Supplementary Language Study Group. The idea was developed by a university student who wanted to learn an "exotic" language but found none were offered in the standard foreign language curriculum at the university.

This student found other Americans, both on campus and in the local community had a similar interest. Motivation for language study ranged from a desire for job enhancement and an interest in developing cultural awareness to those who were attracted by the flexibility of a language course which did not need to meet the university requirement of five hours class time per week.

The student created a student-run club, the Supplemental Language Study Group (SLSG) , which offered several one hour per week non-credit classes with minimal fees. The teachers for these languages are foreign students at the university who receive a small honorarium for their work.

The club gained official recognition from the student government (ASCSU), making it possible for the application for supplementary funds, access to campus classrooms, and low-cost advertising in the university newspaper. The club offers ten classes taught by native speakers, including Swahili, several classes in Japanese, Urdu, Arabic, Korean, Norwegian, Hebrew, Portuguese, and Navajo.

The program's expansion also had an impact on the official foreign language program offered by Colorado State University. Specifically the success resulted in the development of four new languages in the university language curriculum whereby instruction in Arabic, Hebrew and Korean can now be offered as a one-year introductory language program of three credit courses and Japanese in a two year course. Students can receive credits either through the university or the university's Division of Continuing Education for each of these four languages.

In addition to language instruction, SLSG also gives students and community people a chance to learn about other cultures through person-to-person interaction. This educational experience, both in terms of academics and cross-cultural education has been very successful at Colorado State University.

Supplemental Language Study Program
Colorado State University

BACKGROUND

In 1985 an "experiment" in language programming at Colorado State University launched what is today the Supplementary Language Study Group. The idea was developed by a university student who wanted to learn an "exotic" language but found none were offered in the standard foreign language curriculum at the university. John Tate, an undergraduate business major, needed to learn Swahili to prepare for a job in Africa. Through the International Companions Program of the Office of International Programs, Tate met a Tanzanian student who was interested in sharing not only his language skills, but also wanted to share a general knowledge of his African homeland with the American.

Tate soon found other Americans, both on campus and in the local community who had a similar interest. Motivation for language study ranged from a desire for job enhancement and an interest in developing cultural awareness to those who were attracted by the flexibility of a language course which did not need to fulfill the university requirement of five hours class time per week. The program attracted foreign students as well. A Central African student, for example, decided he too would join the class in Swahili so that upon his return to his country he could communicate with people of the neighboring nations.

Tate organized a one hour a week, non-credit course which had no fees, with a foreign student serving as an instructor. Because of the enthusiastic response of 34 participants in the Swahili class, Tate decided to expand the program to include what participants termed "exotic" languages. He worked closely with the chairman of the Department of Foreign Languages and with the coordinator of the International Education and Outreach in the Office of International Programs at Colorado State University to assess the interest for special instruction in languages not taught in the regular curriculum and the availability of human resources in the university. Tate created a student club, the Supplemental Language Study Group, through which he offered several one hour per week non-credit classes with minimal fees (to cover photocopying costs and a small instructor honorarium).

Through this formal organization, the SLSG gained official recognition from the student government (ASCSU), making it possible for the application for supplementary funds, access to campus classrooms, and low-cost advertising in the university newspaper. The following semester Tate offered ten classes taught by native speakers, an expanded selection which increased the interest and participation among the student body for other languages. His original model remained relatively the same in subsequent semesters. The SLSG offered a variety of languages, determined both by student interest as well as the availability of instructors. These included the original Swahili, plus several classes in Japanese, Urdu, Arabic, Korean, Norwegian, Hebrew, Portuguese, and Navajo.

The program's expansion, however, had an impact on the official foreign language program offered by Colorado State University. Specifically the success resulted in the development of four new languages in the university language curriculum whereby instruction in Arabic, Hebrew and Korean can now be offered as a one-year introductory language program of three credit courses and Japanese in a two-year course. Students can receive credits either through the university or the university's Division of Continuing Education for each of these four languages.

BENEFITS TO THE STUDENTS

The Supplemental Language Study Group idea came at a time when the university was looking for new, creative approaches to achieve its goal of "internationalizing" the campus. The SLSG provided an innovative approach to reaching more U.S. students who had an interest in expanding their horizons, yet it had the flexibility of a non-academic course structure. It also recognized the asset the university had in its foreign student population and provided a way to utilize these students as valuable educational resources. SLSG demonstrated that it could produce a responsive, inexpensive (both for students as well as for the university) and cost-effective program. It also became clear that it would promote cultural interaction and understanding among people. Through person-to-person interaction, foreign students gained a new appreciation of their U.S. colleagues as concerned, interested individuals. The U.S. participants gained a new understanding of other people's cultures as well as of their languages. Two of the language groups later expanded their cross-cultural education beyond the classroom into Weekend Language Camps -- an intensive, two-day long "immersion" in foreign language and culture.

An additional benefit for the foreign student instructors is that they are able to receive a small honorarium for their work. Because the program is operated through an on-campus student club, payment can be made to those foreign students who do not have work permits but who (according to immigration rules) can accept on-campus employment.

Most of the native-speaker instructors are Masters or Doctoral candidates who welcome the opportunity to earn a small amount (about $100 per semester) of money as they share their language and culture. For the three-credit classes, the instructor's salaries are paid in accordance with the Continuing Education Renumeration schedule.

PROCEDURES

Through the SLSG's status as a student club organization which is officially recognized by the university's student government, the officers invite foreign students to become teachers of the program. With the help of the Office of International Programs, the instructors are identified and submitted for approval to the Foreign language Department chair. The SLSG arranges the class schedules and reserves university classroom space. The classes are advertised through the university's student newspaper and through flyers sent to the Foreign Language Department and to each resident living in the residence halls on campus. Students pre-register for the classes during a one week period before the classes begin. The fee (in 1989) is $15 per semester for students and $20 for non-students.

In order to insure continuity from year to year, a work study position has been established in the Office of International Programs to help manage the program. This person is responsible for facilitating the operation and administration of the program. The SLSG continues to operate independently, with the assistance of the work study student.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The main audience is the student population of the university. University staff and faculty also participate, and as space permits, SLSG welcomes local community members. The fee for the non-student participant is slightly higher than for students.

TEACHER TRAINING AND MATERIALS

Training for the instructors, most of whom have had some kind of teaching experience, is given by a foreign language professor from the Office of Instructional Services, who volunteers her services for a workshop each semester.

Costs of copying the materials and textbooks for the teachers are paid from the course fees. The university book store stocks the textbooks for the students to purchase.

EVALUATION

The evaluation process includes the review of information from several sources: questionnaires from the students at the end of the course, enrollment figures, and observation by the club officers and the head of the Foreign Language Department.

RESULTS AND REPLICABILITY

The project has grown from a single Swahili class taught once a week by a Tanzanian student, to the current program reaching over 200 students per year with classes in seven languages. Though most classes still meet just one hour a week for no credit and provide only an introduction to the language and culture, the Korean, Japanese, and Arabic languages are now also offered in a 12 credit model by the university. This latter development is indicative of the success of the program and the recognition of the needs it meets. This program is replicable in a university or college where foreign students are willing to be instructors, where the Office of International Programs (or its equivalent) is willing to assist and where approval can be obtained from the head of Foreign Language Department, the University administration and the Division of Continuing Education. Personalized instruction in language teaching techniques should be available to the class instructors.

The program at Colorado State University uses a student club as the organizing agent, with supplementary help from a work study student at the Office of International Programs to provide continuity. Student leadership brings vitality and creativity to the program, yet it adds a unpredictable variable in terms of leadership. To solve the problem, the Office of International Programs, or its equivalent must be willing to provide assistance in identifying instructors and potential leaders for the program. This requires a commitment of staff time to assist the work of the sponsoring club.

PORTUGUESE

ARABIC

JAPANESE

SWAHILI

Learn a Language

Experience a Culture

Broaden Your Perspectives

presented by

Supplemental Language Study Group

an ASCSU recognized student organization

PORTUGUESE JAPANESE ARABIC SWAHILI

Beginning and Intermediate instruction will be offered this semester in the above languages by the Supplemental Language Study Group, an ASCSU recognized student organization. All classes are taught by native speakers and begin the week of Feb. 10, 1987. Classes meet for one hour of classroom work per week and continue for 10 weeks. A $10.00 non-refundable registration fee is charged for each course. These classes do not carry university credit. They have been developed and are structured to give CSU students an exposure to a culture and a language. Throughout the semester additional cultural activities dealing with countries in which these languages are spoken will be presented for participants in the program and for the student body as a whole. In early April, 1987 participants are eligible to attend a language camp. This is a unique experience--students spend a weekend in the mountains with several native speakers. The respective languages are spoken during the weekend, and foods and activities of the various countries involved are scheduled.

Broaden your perspectives by experiencing a language and a culture through the program offered by the Supplemental Language Study Group.

For information and schedules stop by room 310 Aylesworth, 491-4818, call John Tate at 493-3251 or leave a message at 491-5917, after Monday January 26, 1987.

Watch for information concerning Supplemental Language Study Group activities and classes in the Collegian and in the Flea Market.

ARABIC KOREAN SWAHILI

JAPANESE NAVAHO

Learn a Language
Experience a Culture
Broaden Your Perspective

Beginning and intermediate instruction will be offered this semester in these languages. All classes are taught by native speakers and begin the week of February 9, 1987. Classes meet for one hour of classroom work per week and continue for 10 weeks. A $15.00 non-refundable fee is charged for each course ($10.00 for students and spouse of student). These classes do not carry university credit. They have been developed and are structured to familiarize participants with a language and a culture. Throughout the semester additional cultural activities dealing with countries in which these languages are spoken will be presented.

For information, registration and class locations stop by the International Office, 310 Aylesworth, or call 491-4818 (day), 493-3251(evening), 491-5917(day). We will have a registration/information table in the Flea Market at the Lory Student Center on February 5,6, and 9.

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CLASS SCHEDULE

ARABIC-Level One
Section A-Mondays 5:00 to 6:00pm, Instructor Faisal Azzouqa, Palestine
Section B-Tuesdays 5:00 to 6:00pm, Instructor Marwan Al-Hassan, Syria
Section C-Wednesdays 3:10 to 4:00pm, Instructor Basil Hamdan, Lebanon

JAPANESE-Level One
Section A-Wednesdays 7:00 to 8:00pm, Instructor Noriko Miller, Japan
Section B-Thrusdays 3:10pm to 4:00pm, Instructor Mako Beecken, Japan

KOREAN-Level One
Section A-Tuesdays 3:10 to 4:00pm, Instructor Younghee Han, Korea

SWAHILI-Level One
Section A-Tuesdays 4:10 to 5:00pm, Instructor Frederick Rwebyogo, Tanzania

SWAHILI-Level Two
Section A-Thursdays 4:10 to 5:00pm, Instructor Frederick Rwebyogo, Tanzania

NAVAHO-Level One
To be announced

Intermediate classes in Japanese and Arabic will be available if sufficient interest exists. Please call concerning intermediate classes.

Language Familiarity Programs
by
SUPPLEMENTAL LANGUAGE STUDY GROUP
an ASCSU/SORC recognized student organization

JAPANESE

ARABIC NAVAHO
KOREAN SWAHILI

Beginning and intermediate instruction will be offered this semester in these languages. All classes are taught by native speakers and begin the week of February 9, 1987. Classes meet for one hour per week and continue for 10 weeks. $10.00 fee for each course ($15.00 for non-students)

For information, registration and class locations stop by the International Office, 310 Aylesworth, or call 491-4818 (day), 493-3251(evening), 491-5917(day). We will have a registration/information table in the Flea Market at the Lory Student Center on February 5,6, and 9.

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LEARN TO SPEAK

KOREAN

A class in beginning Korean will be offered at CSU this semester. Classes meet for one hour per week. A $10.00 fee is charged for the course ($15.00 for non-students).

The instructor will be Younghee Han, a Korean doctoral candidate at CSU. Younghee taught Korean to Americans at the Sacred Heart International School in Seoul, Korea for 3 years.

This is a basic class in spoken Korean and is open to all interested persons.

For information, registration and class locations stop by the International Office, 310 Aylesworth, or call 491-4818 (day), 493-3251(evening), 491-5917(day). We will have a registration/information table in the Flea Market at the Lory Student Center on February 5,6, and 9.

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Language Familiarity Programs
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an ASCSU/SORC recognized student organization

FOR CHILDREN

KOREAN and JAPANESE

Children's (ages 6-12) classes in beginning Korean and Japanese will start Tuesday, July 21, 1987 at the following times:

Korean--9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays

Japanese--1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays

These classes last for four weeks. All instructors are native speakers. A $34 fee is charged for each course. For information,registration and class locations call 493-4371.

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